



March 9, 2022

RE: H.B. No. 5342 AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD

2022

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The Connecticut Green Building Council (CTGBC) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. We are committed to accelerating the healthy, equitable, resilient, and sustainable transformation of Connecticut's built environment. We are experts in energy-efficient buildings, and our membership includes developers, architects, engineers, consultants, building operators, builders and contractors, product manufacturers, public officials, and more.

The CTGBC appreciates the opportunity to sit on the Advisory Board and believes that our perspective and experience in designing, constructing, and operating buildings without compromising indoor health, long-term durability, or environmental health would benefit the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board.

We recognize one of the leading contributions to the energy burden is inefficient buildings. The physical attributes of the buildings people live in directly impact housing vulnerability, energy assistance, health, and greenhouse gas emissions. There is no single solution to the broader goals, but CTGBC subject experts help navigate design and construction strategies and common obstacles at the building level.

For example, the conditions of the building shell, or enclosure, windows, etc., must be considered while incentivizing heating and cooling systems, like heat pumps. A heat pump will perform poorly if the windows and walls perform poorly. Too often we see this in un-weatherized existing buildings with high energy loads. However, we also see affordable new construction housing and properly retrofitted and sized systems excelling in energy and indoor air quality metrics, particularly all-electric systems.

Our members work and live in energy burdened communities and collaborate with community groups to improve access to modern energy services. These services, including clean energy and clean cooking facilities (e.g., fuels and stoves that do not cause air pollution in houses), are fundamental for human development and quality of life.

We are happy to answer any further questions you might have and thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments.

Sincerely,

Kai Starn, LEED AP, CPHC
Chair, CT Green Building Council
Co Chair, Advocacy Committee